Route Permits to Private Bus Operators in Delhi

367. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give more route permits to private bus operators in Delhi in view of the acute shortage of D.T.C. buses;

(b) *if so,* the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these permits would be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). To augment the public transport in Delhi, the State Transport Authority, Delhi has formulated a scheme for grant of 3000 Stage Carriage Permits to the Private Operators on certain city routes in Delhi on fare rates higher than that of D.T.C. The scheme is still under consideration of Delhi Administration.

[*English*]

Increase in Textile Exports Quota for India

368. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Government is contemplating to increase the textile export quota for India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to meet this challenging opportunity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c). Consultations between delegations of India and U.S.A. are currently being held in Washington for renewal/extension of the current Indo-Us Textile Agreement which is expiring on 31st December, 1991. The outcome is awaited.

Expansion of Footwear Market Abroad

369. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the footwear market abroad has expanded enormously but India's share in the trade remains marginal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The inadequacy of component manufacturing facilities, shortage of trained technical manpower and insufficient, attention the past to product development and marketing, are some of the constraints in our achieving a higher percentage share in the world footwear trade. Government is concious of the growth potential of the footwear sector and is initiating various steps to boost exports of footwear.

Export of Gems and Jewellery

370. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent curbs on imports have had an adverse effect on the export of Gems and jewellery; and